

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 7-20 are pending. Claims 10-12 have been withdrawn from consideration and Claims 2-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1, 7-9, and 14-18 have been amended without the introduction of new matter as Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled Claims 2 to 5 and Claim 7 has been amended to include the subject matter of canceled Claims 2 to 4 and 6. In addition, Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to be consistent with the disclosure at page 46, lines 16-26, for example, and the recitations of Claims 13-20. Minor informalities in Claims 8, 9, and 14-18 have also been corrected without the introduction of new matter.

The outstanding Action presented a rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori et al. (JP 2002-208447, Onori) in view of Takeshi (JP 11-307782) and a rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi in further view of Kazuo (JP 2002-203879).

Initially, Applicants acknowledge the indication that Claim 7 is only objected to as being dependent on a rejected base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 6. As Claim 7 has been rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of canceled Claims 2-4 as well as those of independent base Claim 1 and intervening Claim 6, the allowance of Claim 7 and Claims 8 and 9 that directly depend on Claim 7 is respectfully requested.

Turning to the rejection of Claims 1-6, 8, 9, and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi, it is first noted that as Claims 8 and 9 depend from allowable Claim 7, these claims include all the limitations of allowable Claim 7 and should also be allowed for the same reasons as Claim 7. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi is respectfully requested.

With regard to the rejection of Claims 2-6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi, the cancellation of Claims 2-6 is belived to render this rejection thereof as being moot.

The rejection of Claims 1 and 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi is traversed. In this regard, base independent Claim 1 requires that the DLC film that is integrally formed must be “formed so as to cover all of one or both surfaces of the anisotropically conductive sheet body” and not just so as to cover at least the insulating part as was previously recited. Thus, as now recited by Claim 1, the DLC film must cover the conductive parts and the insulating parts formed in a sheet body of silicone rubber.

Onori at most teaches an anisotropically conductive sheet in which conductive parts and insulating parts are formed in a body of an elastic polymeric substance of silicone rubber with a contact member formed on the conductive parts and a static eliminating layer formed on the insulating part (paragraph [0008], 130 of FIG. 1).

To whatever extent that Takeshi teaches forming a DLC film, it is on an insulating substrate (of quartz or glass, paragraph [0026]) of an LCD that has with thin film transistors, non of which is in any way analogous subject matter as to the anisotropic conductive sheet of Onori with its conductive parts and insulating parts formed in a body of an elastic polymeric substance of silicone rubber. While Takeshi teaches that an organic 2nd insulation film 204 can be formed on the insulating substrate 201 before the DLC film 205 is formed on the film 204, 201 is still all insulating as is film 204.

In the invention of Claim 1, the provision of the DLC layer to cover the conductive parts as well as the insulating provides advantages as noted at page 14, lines 14-20, for example, in terms of “the construction that the DLC film is formed so as to cover the surfaces of the conductive parts, a solder material is sufficiently inhibited from adhering to the surface

of the anisotropically conductive sheet even when electrodes, which are an object of connection, are composed of solder, so that necessary conductivity can be retained over a long period of time.”

Accordingly, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi is believed to be clearly improper for the reasons noted above, and the withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

As Claims 16-20 all depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1, the rejection of Claims 16-20 is traversed for at least the reasons noted above as to parent Claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 16-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi is also respectfully requested.

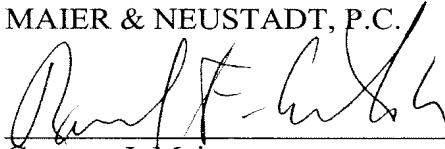
Turning to the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi in further view of Kazuo, it is first noted that Kazuo does not cure the above noted deficiencies of Onori and Takeshi. Accordingly, as Claims 13-15 all depend either directly or indirectly from Claim 1, the rejection of Claims 13-15 is traversed for at least the reasons noted above as to parent Claim 1. Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Onori in view of Takeshi in further view of Kazuo is also respectfully requested.

Application No. 10/525,089
Reply to Office Action of 09/10/07

As no further issues are believed to remain outstanding in the present application, it is believed that this application is clearly in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is, therefore, respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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